

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 00707 272057Z

73

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2177
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
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TAGS: PINT, PINS, ASEC, TU
SUBJECT: DOMESTIC UNREST

REF: (A) ANKARA 621, (B) ANKARA 441

1. THE JANUARY 27 TURKISH PRESS GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO THE DEATHS OF THREE SUSPECTED TERRORISTS IN A CLASH WITH SECURITY FORCES NEAR MALATYA (REF. A). ALMOST ALL NEWSPAPERS GAVE THE STORY FRONT PAGE TREATMENT WITH PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE SCENE AND, IN THE CASE OF MASS-CIRCULATION HURRIYET AN ARTIST'S PICTORAL DIAGRAM OF THE INCIDENT. MOST REPORTING WAS FACTUAL. LEFTIST POLITIKA ALSO CARRIED A FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL BY ISMAIL CEM (IPEKCI) WHO WROTE THAT THE MOST TRAGIC ASPECT OF THE MALATYA INCIDENTS WAS THE LOSS OF FIVE LIVES IN TWO GUN BATTLES. HE ALSO LAMENTED THE

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 00707 272057Z

DANGER OF A RETURN TO AN ERA OF TERRORIST INCIDENTS. CEM CHARACTERIZED AS "FANTASY" THE IDEA THAT TURKEY COULD BE CHANGED BY FORCE OF ARMS, A LESSON, WHICH ACCORDING TO CEM, WAS LEARNED DURING THE POST-MARCH 1971 MARTIAL LAW PERIOD. HOWEVER, CEM ALSO QUESTIONED THE DEGREE OF FORCE USED RECENTLY BY SECURITY FORCES BOTH IN ISTANBUL (REF. B) AND IN MALATYA, WHICH RESULTED IN SUSPECTS BEING KILLED DURING CAPTURE. AS CEM NOTED, THE SUSPECTS' FULL STORIES CANNOT NOW BE BROUGHT OUT IN THE COURTS.

2. ACCORDING TO ALL REPORTS, THE THREE SUSPECTS WERE CORNERED BY POLICE AND JANDALHA FORCES IN A VILLAGE HOUSE SOME TEN KILOMETERS OUTSIDE MALATYA ON THE ADIYAMAN ROAD. DESPITE DEMANDS BY THE SECURITY FORCES THAT THE THREE SURRENDER, THEY CHOSE TO SHOOT IT OUT. AFTER A FIERCE GUN FIGHT, INCLUDING BOMBARDMENT OF THE HOUSE BY AN AIR FORCE HELICOPTER, POLICE AND JANDARMA COMMANDOS ENTERED THE HOUSE AND FOUND TWO OF THE SUSPECTS DEAD AND ONE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. THE THIRD DIED SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

3. MALATYA AUTHORITIES HAVE IDENTIFIED THE THREE AS (1) YUSUF ZIYA GUNES, A STUDENT AT ANKARA'S MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (METU) FACULTY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. GUNES HAD NO RPT NO POLICE RECORD; (2) HASAN BASRI TEMIZALP, A METU GRADUATE WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN 1972 FOR LEFTIST ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING INVOLVEMENT IN AN ALLEGED TURKISH PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY (THKO) PLOT TO ASSASSINATE FORMER JANDARMA COMMANDER GENERAL EKEN, BUT LATER ACQUITTED BY A MARTIAL LAW TRIBUNAL; AND (3) ILKER AKMAN, ANOTHER METU GRADUATE AND FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE TURKISH CHAMBER OF ARCHITECTS. MACOMBER

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